



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08038.0055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Nobuo Ishii et al.) Group Art Unit: 3742
)
Application No.: 09/975,067) Examiner: Q. VAN
)
Filed: October 12, 2001)
)
For: PLASMA PROCESSING) Confirmation No. 9990
APPARATUS)
)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

On page 2 of the Notice of Allowability mailed September 10, 2004, the Examiner wrote:

allowance of claims 1, 3-14, 16-18, and 21 is indicated because the prior art of record does not show or suggest a directional coupler configured to connect the propagation waveguide with the annular waveguide to thereby form the high-frequency traveling wave circulating in the annular waveguide in one direction as recited in claims 1, 3, 10-14, 16-18, and 21; and the traveling-wave generator has a multiphase high-frequency wave supplier for supplying several positions apart from each other in the circumferential direction of the annular waveguide with high-frequency waves whose phases are shifted from each other in the circumferential direction, whereby the supply of the high-frequency waves whose phases are shifted from each other in the circumferential direction of the annular waveguide allows the traveling wave to be generated in the annular waveguide as recited in claims 4-9.

Applicants would like to clarify that the aspect "a directional coupler configured to connect the propagation waveguide with the annular waveguide to thereby form the

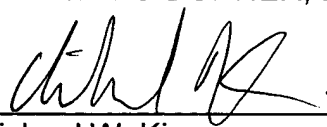
high-frequency traveling wave circulating in the annular waveguide in one direction" is only recited in claims 1, 3, 10-14, 16-18, and 21, and is not recited in claims 4-9, and that the aspect "the traveling-wave generator has a multiphase high-frequency wave supplier for supplying several positions apart from each other in the circumferential direction of the annular waveguide with high-frequency waves whose phases are shifted from each other in the circumferential direction, whereby the supply of the high-frequency waves whose phases are shifted from each other in the circumferential direction of the annular waveguide allows the traveling wave to be generated in the annular waveguide" is only recited in claims 4-9, and is not recited in claims 1, 3, 10-14, 16-18, and 21.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 10, 2004

By: 
Michael W. Kim
Reg. No. 51,880